

REMARKS

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-26 remain pending, wherein Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11-13, 15-18, and 21-24 have been amended.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's acknowledgement of Applicants' claim for foreign priority and that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. Applicants also note with appreciation the Examiner's consideration of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 2, 2003.

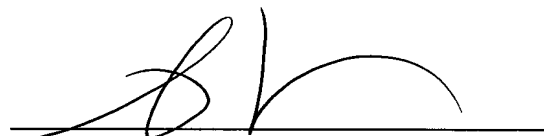
Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 1-26 are allowed subject to the correction of minor informalities. The claims have been amended to address the informalities cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections and allowance of Claims 1-26 are respectively requested.

All outstanding objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in immediate condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056205.50339C2).

Respectfully submitted,

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